

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

DEFINITION: Average number and percentage of children (ages 0-12) who were served by the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in a state fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

SIGNIFICANCE

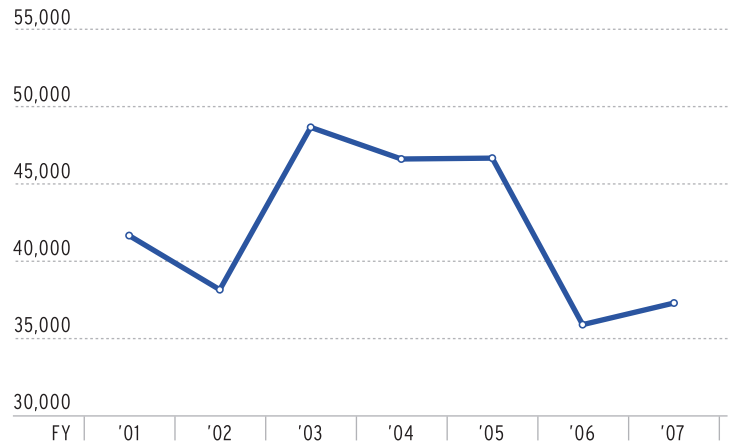
The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps low- and moderate-income families pay for child care while parents attend work, go to school and/or look for work. In Louisiana, 76% of families served by CCAP in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2007 were employed, 10% were both employed and in an education or training program, and an additional 8% were in a training or education program.¹ National research shows that parents who receive child care subsidies are more likely to work, work more hours, sustain employment and earn more than their peers who do not receive child care subsidies.²

CCAP is administered by the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) and is funded by the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant, and state matching dollars. Families who are eligible for CCAP must pay a portion of the cost of care in the form of a copayment, which ranges from 20% to 60% of the cost of care, depending on the family's income. Families that receive FITAP (cash assistance) are exempt from the copayment requirement. In 2007, Louisiana families with copayments spent an average of 12% of their monthly income on copayments. Nationally, families served by CCDBG funding spent an average of 6% of their income on copayments.³

Participating families can use CCAP to pay for child care in several different settings, including Class A child care centers, family child care homes, in-home care, and school-based before- and after-school programs and summer camps. Louisiana families served by CCDBG funds are more likely to use center-based care than their counterparts in the rest of the country. In FFY 2007, 77% of Louisiana children served by CCDBG funds received care in a child care center, compared to 58% nationally. Louisiana children served by CCDBG funds were considerably less likely than their counterparts nationally to receive care in a family child care home. In FFY 2007, 11% of Louisiana children served by CCDBG funds were cared for in a family child care home, compared to 28% nationally.⁴

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED BY THE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN LOUISIANA

Fiscal years 2001-2007



Louisiana's Child Care Assistance Program serves children under age 13, as well as disabled children under age 18. Relative to the rest of the country, a disproportionate share of Louisiana children served by CCDBG funding were infants and toddlers. In FFY 2007, 41% of Louisiana children served by CCDBG were infants and toddlers (ages 0-2). The comparable figure for the nation was 29%. One-third of children served by CCDBG funds in Louisiana were preschoolers (ages 3-5), which is comparable to the national rate of 36%. School-age children (ages 6-13) comprise 26% of Louisiana children served by CCDBG funds, compared to 35% nationally.⁵

The number of children served by the Child Care Assistance Program fell from 46,680 in FY 2005 to 37,296 in FY 2007. In Orleans Parish, the percentage of children ages 0-12 who were served by CCAP in Orleans Parish fell from 9.2% in FY 2005 to 4.5% in FY 2007, a decline of 50.6%. Other hurricane-affected parishes also saw substantial declines in both the absolute number of children served by CCAP and the percentage of children served by CCAP.

DATA SOURCE

Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, Quality Assurance Division

RATE CALCULATION

100 * (average number of children served by CCAP ÷ total number of children ages 0-12)

¹ Center for Law and Social Policy, "Louisiana Child Care Participation Profile," Center for Law and Social Policy, retrieved from www.clasp.org on 7/30/2009.

² Stephanie A. Schaefer, J. Lee Kreader, and Ann M. Collins, "Parent Employment and the Use of Child Care Subsidies," Child Care and Early Education Research Connections, 2006, retrieved from www.childcareresearch.org on 5/1/2009.

³ Center for Law and Social Policy, "Louisiana Child Care Participation Profile," Center for Law and Social Policy, retrieved from www.clasp.org on 7/30/2009.

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ *ibid.*

CHILDREN RECEIVING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER AND PERCENT OF ALL CHILDREN AGES 0-12 SERVED

	FY 2005		FY 2007		CHANGE FROM FYs 2005-2007	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%*
LOUISIANA	46,680	5.6	37,296	4.9	-9,384	-12.7
Acadia	431	3.3	384	3.3	-47	-0.3
Allen	104	3.1	60	1.4	-43	-53.8
Ascension	240	1.2	334	1.6	93	37.2
Assumption	89	2.4	81	2.1	-9	-10.7
Avoyelles	452	5.7	428	5.6	-24	-2.6
Beauregard	219	3.5	194	3.2	-25	-9.8
Bienville	110	4.7	102	4.1	-8	-12.4
Bossier	911	3.8	803	3.8	-108	0.9
Caddo	3,429	7.1	3,271	7.2	-157	1.0
Calcasieu	1,968	5.6	1,575	4.7	-393	-17.4
Caldwell	40	2.2	24	1.4	-16	-33.4
Cameron	8	0.7	5	0.5	-3	-29.2
Catahoula	97	5.3	87	5.1	-11	-4.3
Claiborne	82	3.6	97	4.2	15	14.7
Concordia	431	13.7	321	9.4	-110	-31.2
De Soto	222	4.7	181	3.9	-41	-18.7
East Baton Rouge	5,477	7.4	5,943	7.7	465	4.6
East Carroll	242	14.2	242	15.4	1	8.8
East Feliciana	97	2.3	116	3.5	19	53.6
Evangeline	381	5.4	281	4.0	-99	-25.1
Franklin	283	7.4	359	9.9	76	34.8
Grant	293	7.2	285	8.0	-9	10.8
Iberia	1,271	8.5	1,192	8.1	-78	-4.4
Iberville	420	7.5	421	7.7	1	2.8
Jackson	79	2.1	80	3.2	2	46.9
Jefferson	3,794	5.2	2,137	3.1	-1,657	-40.8
Jefferson Davis	112	2.0	96	1.6	-16	-21.7
Lafayette	1,795	4.6	1,873	4.9	78	7.5
Lafourche	421	2.6	379	2.4	-43	-7.5
La Salle	71	2.7	70	3.1	-1	13.7
Lincoln	480	7.3	546	8.3	66	13.5
Livingston	519	2.2	594	2.6	74	22.2
Madison	129	5.0	156	6.4	27	28.2
Morehouse	680	13.4	624	12.3	-56	-8.8
Natchitoches	1,232	15.1	1,043	14.6	-189	-3.3
Orleans	6,908	9.2	1,204	4.5	-5,704	-50.6
Ouachita	1,769	6.3	1,739	6.2	-30	-1.8
Plaquemines	180	3.2	91	2.4	-88	-25.8
Pointe Coupee	141	3.9	165	4.3	24	9.3
Rapides	2,225	8.7	1,989	8.3	-235	-4.8
Red River	33	1.9	23	1.3	-9	-28.1
Richland	217	5.1	212	5.7	-5	13.1
Sabine	153	4.0	138	3.4	-15	-16.2
St. Bernard	587	4.6	42	2.9	-545	-36.9
St. Charles	312	3.6	275	2.9	-38	-20.3
St. Helena	149	7.2	136	7.4	-13	2.1
St. James	157	4.0	143	3.7	-13	-8.3
St. John the Baptist	509	5.6	483	5.0	-25	-10.7
St. Landry	1,017	5.7	962	5.4	-55	-4.6
St. Martin	594	6.5	567	5.8	-27	-10.2
St. Mary	593	5.9	564	5.9	-29	0.0
St. Tammany	944	2.3	697	1.7	-247	-27.2
Tangipahoa	1,342	7.0	1,341	6.2	-1	-11.9
Tensas	70	4.9	70	6.9	0	39.9
Terrebonne	782	3.9	686	3.3	-96	-13.7
Union	96	2.7	80	2.0	-16	-25.4
Vermilion	308	3.0	270	2.7	-38	-12.2
Vernon	135	1.2	135	1.2	0	-0.9
Washington	276	3.1	230	2.8	-46	-9.9
Webster	167	2.4	207	3.0	40	29.1
West Baton Rouge	216	5.8	236	5.9	20	0.8
West Carroll	12	0.5	10	0.6	-1	9.5
West Feliciana	44	2.5	43	2.6	-2	1.2
Winn	142	5.1	179	7.3	37	44.6

*Note that the percentage change refers to the change in the percentage of children who received Child Care Assistance. The percentage of children who were served by CCAP in Louisiana declined by 12.7% between FY 2005 and FY 2007. The number of children of children who were served by CCAP declined by 20.1% in the same time period.